## VISION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

## Meeting March 12, 2009 Flett Room, Main Library

MINUTES

•

- Present: Sara Oaklander, Jennifer Page, Al Rubin, Paul Solomon
- Also present: Jonathan Mascia, Dave Petto

•

- The acting Chair, Jennifer Page, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
- 1. Paul Solomon was designated to take minutes.
  - The minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

•

- 2. Town Website
- Dave Petto, Acting Information Technology Director for the Town, demonstrated Video Streaming, a new technology produced by CGI Communications, which Dave is planning to install on the Town's new website.
- He stated that he will make a presentation on the new website to the Annual Town Meeting in April, and plans to launch it officially in the first week of May. The new website will have a different address: www.belmont-ma.gov
- Dave demonstrated examples of Video Streaming from several community websites across Massachusetts.
- In return for a letter from the Town, introducing CGI to town businesses, the Town can receive Video Streaming for its website at no cost, including six one-minute videos.
- Four of these have pre-set themes: welcome, education, quality of life, and attractions. Two others would be the Town's choice. All text and visuals are done by the Town. In addition, we would have five minutes of new videos each month, our choice of subject, still at no cost, even if no town businesses signed up for the service. The town's businesses would pay for the videos, which would be linked to the Town's website.
- The Town would have to sign a 3-year contract.

•

- It was agreed by all that the VIC could help with the content of the videos, and could get input from former VIC members.
- The following motion was made by Paul and seconded by Sara: "The Vision Implementation Committee, having seen a demonstration of Video Streaming, supports the Town's efforts to use this technology on its new website". The motion was approved unanimously.
- Dave agreed to check on Jonathan's question: Who owns the videos, and would we have access to them?

•

• Dave noted that the new website would continue to have the three "buckets": residents, businesses, newcomers. He believes the new site will be more user-friendly. He noted that there is no definite timeline for the VIC's continuing input on the website, since the Town will have control over changes going forward. The VIC will continue to

recommend improvements in the "About Belmont" and "Newcomers" sections. It was noted that we need to know the desired format for these recommendations, for efficiency's sake.

•

- 3. Government Structure Review Committee.
- Paul gave a brief summary of the Government Structure Review Committee's public meeting, on February 26, which several VIC members attended.

•

- 4. VIC Meeting with Board of Selectmen, March 16, 2009
- Jennifer distributed a summary of the VIC's key accomplishments since its inception in 2001. After Sara's edits, Jennifer will send the document to the selectmen as a basis for Monday's discussion. Jennifer will also ask that the document be placed on the Town's website, in the section on the Vision Committee.
- It was agreed that Kirk, the chair, should highlight the general areas of accomplishments listed in Jennifer's summary, and urge the appointment of Tim Bowman and Jonathan Mascia to the VIC. Jan Kruse, chair of Sustainable Belmont will be present at the meeting, as will Jonathan Mascia. He will contact Tim Bowman to remind him of the meeting with the selectmen. Paul will contact Kirk to brief him on the VIC's recommendations for the meeting with the Selectmen.

•

- 5. VIC's Role in Commenting/Influencing Forthcoming Town Meeting Actions.
- It was agreed that it was within the Vic's responsibilities to take positions on warrant articles directly affecting the Town's Vision. The discussion focused on the Barn Bylaw, proposed by the Planning Board, which will be on the Warrant for the 2009 Annual Town Meeting in April.
- Sara moved, and Al seconded the following motion: "The Vision Implementation Committee supports the warrant article relating to the preservation of historic barns in the Town". The motion was approved unanimously.

•

- 6. Other Items.
  - Change of schedule for minutes: Jennifer, March 26; Al, April 9.
- Jennifer and Sara will meet to continue discussions on the Town website, and will give "assignments" to other Committee members.

•

- 7. Adjournment.
  - The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

•

- Respectfully submitted,
- Paul Solomon

Secretary Pro Tem